



Xmas Presents

Purchased at the **HARDWARE STORE** are a lasting pleasure to the recipient.

THE useful as well as the beautiful make the housewife happy, so don't forget to make a selection from our stock.



A pair of **-SKATES-** for the boy.

THE Clauss Shears and Razors are the finest on earth. Every pair exchangeable if not entirely satisfactory. In selecting your presents do not forget that "A friend in need is a friend indeed".



HAMBLÉN BROS.



SOUTH & WESTERN TO TAKE OVER C. H. & D.

The Manufacturers' Record says:

Since the refusal of the Erie Railroad Co. to purchase the Cincinnati Hamilton & Dayton Railroad and the subsequent receivership of the latter followed by legal and syndicate proceedings, it is anticipated that, after all, the original plan projected prior to the Erie default, build a connection and make a through route to tidewater on the South Atlantic coast will be carried out.

It appears probable that J. F. Morgan & Co. and associates, who are said to include N. R. Ream, H. McTombly, George F. Baker and others, will, after the receivership and other court matters are disposed of, set about getting the road as desired southern connection, perhaps via the South & Western Railway and the Seaboard Air Lines, in both of which Mr. Ream is interested. Indeed, the fact that Mr. Ream, who is director in the Seaboard, and who was of Mr. Thomas F. Ryan's associates in the purchase of control of the Cincinnati corporation, which is allied with the South & Western Railway, should now be one of a syndicate to hold the Cincinnati Hamilton & Dayton is thought to be very significant.

To make the necessary connection from Ironton, O., to the "Break" of the Big Sandy river in the Cumberland mountains the construction of about 100 miles of road is all that would be necessary. This line would run through the eastern part of Kentucky near the West Virginia border, and several charters have been reported during the past year to permit the building of railroads in that

section, it is possible that the construction of this connection will be facilitated by the acquisition of one or more, as might be necessary, of these legal authorizations.

As yet, however there has been no announcement of such a plan, although it has been several times reported that Eugene Zimmerman, now president of the Detroit Toledo & Ironton Railroad, would build an extension to the coal fields in Eastern Ky., using the new bridge now being erected at Ironton to cross the Ohio river. It is therefore at least possible, with not a small degree of probability, that, after all, the various interests concerned in such a proposed extension will get together and carry out the project. That such a railroad will be built seems practically assured, for the vast mineral wealth in that region to be traversed by the road is so great that it cannot remain idle and undisturbed. Messrs. Zimmerman and associates have, it is said about 350,000 acres of land in the Northern Coal & Coke Co., a territory which is wonderfully rich in coal and the development of this tract will assuredly be undertaken.

The possibilities of building a railroad from Ironton down through Eastern Kentucky are so great, considering the natural wealth of that part of the State, that is not too much to say, that should Mr. Morgan and his friends carry out the plan he would make much more money in the end than he ever would have done by carrying out the proposed deal with the Erie.

FOR SALE

A good paying business or will sell interest to right party.

Address Lock Box 379, 46-50 Bristol, Tenn.

NO PADDING IN WISE COUNTY

Phenomenal Increase in Population Here Increases School Census.

Big Stone Gap, Va., Dec. 15.—That the Wise county school census is padded is emphatically denied here. While the curtailment of the school years of children to between seven and twenty would naturally reduce the number of public school pupils in the older counties where the population is not increasing rapidly, it would not reduce the figures in Wise, where the increase of population has been rapid.

R. A. Ayers, former attorney-general, says the increase of school population comes from the progress the county is making in every way. He says the school census not only ought to hold its own, but also ought to have advanced beyond the figures of 1900. The general census from 1890 to 1900 showed an increase of 140 per cent., giving in 1900, 20,000, which would, at the rate, make more than 30,000 now, and it is but reasonable to suppose that the school census would advance in the same ratio.

R. H. Shopp, principal of schools for Big Stone Gap, says that to his personal knowledge the number enumerated in his district is not equal to the real number of school subjects—that is, the enumerator failed to find all.

The school census, in fact, has done just what it should have done. It has kept pace with the progress in other directions in Wise county.

The building of new school houses is another proof of the increase in school population. Big Stone Gap is now building a house

with fourteen school rooms, besides assembly hall, cloak rooms, office, play rooms, etc. Richmond district has just completed two seven-room buildings instead of a three-room house and a one-room house. Coeburn has a fine new seven-room building where formerly there was a two-room building and single and double buildings are going up all over the county.

Where seven years ago the county contained sixty-five schools, she now has 105. There is no need of "padding" the census in Wise county; it "pads" itself rapidly enough.

Bristol Courier.

MIDDLESBORO STILL RAIDED BY REVENUE OFFICERS.

Middlesboro, Ky., Dec. 14.—Five revenue officers visited the distillery of the Middlesboro distilling company yesterday and confiscated 14,000 gallons of whiskey, with the entire apparatus of the plant. It is charged that the tax upon this whiskey has not been paid.

Carter Smith, a government ganger, was arrested and placed in jail charged with being in league with the operation in disposing of whiskey by illegal methods.

Deputy Collector Bland Ballard, of Danville, in regard to the matter said:

"The Middlesboro distillery has been suspected for the last eighteen months of being run crookedly, but not until today was enough evidence gathered against its operation to justify a raid. This is one of the most important raids in the State."

The officers of the distilling company are among the most prominent men in this place, and the affair caused a great deal of surprise among local people.

CRAB ORCHARD.

W. K. Hopkins, editor of the Pennington Gap News and M. D. Collier, of Slemp, was around securing the right of way for the Black Mountain Railway Co., branch line that passes through Crab Orchard coal field and down Laurel Fork to Imboden mining town.

C. Wade was married to a Miss Fields on top of the Little Black Mountain Saturday. Rev. W. N. Rice, of Clover Fork, officiated in the marriage ceremony.

Several people met and held a Sunday School at Pleasant Hill Church.

Elisha Brown went to Jonesville to attend court Monday. XX

OLINGER.

Miss Bessie Hamblen was in town Saturday.

Newton Kelly and John H. Reaser went to Stonega this week.

Carrie Bailey, of Deep Spring, attended church services at this place Sunday.

Harvey Myers and Emmett Elv, two prominent farmers of Lee County, were in Big Stone this week.

The merchants of this place are busy preparing for Xmas.

Mr. Lindsay Wade, of Turkey Cove, went to Jonesville last week.

Several Odd Fellows, of Crab Orchard, attended the lodge at this place Saturday.

Mrs. Jackson Jessee, Kentucky, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Benj. Wampler, who is very sick at her home near here.

STRAYED COW.

Strayed to my place above Imboden last July one roan cow with crumpled horns. Owner will please call and get same and pay for this advertisement.

51-3 J. M. MULLINS.